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Attack on Mr. Pitt's
Policy & Administration

AN
ENGLISHMAN'S REMARKS
ON THE
SHORT REVIEW
OF THE
POLITICAL STATE
OF
GREAT BRITAIN,

At the Commencement of the Year 1787.

*Credo erit verendum mihi, ne non hoc potius omnes boni
serius a me, quam quisquam crudelius factum esse di-
cant.* Cic. in Catil.

L O N D O N:

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OF all our late pamphlets, none has been more read, or has occasioned more speculation, than a late publication entitled "A Review of Politics at the Commencement of 1787."

Though I am not in general inclined to give such performances a perusal, considering them as mere ephemerons, either calculated to gain a few shillings, or gratify spleen and malevolence; yet, amidst a curiosity so general, I could not suffer this pamphlet to pass unnoticed. After all the encomiums I had heard given to this far-famed piece, I must own myself to have been extremely disappointed when I found, so far from a review of our political state, a mere sketch of certain characters, in

which, amidst swelling words and quotations miserably drawn in, I could discern no traces of a master. I had expected that the reviewer would have fully discussed the propriety of a connection with France on our part, and the merits of the present commercial treaty in particular. I had hoped for much information on the subject of revenue, and for new lights on the conduct of Mr. Hastings; both which will be material objects of parliamentary investigation. The Author may, in answer, say that it did not come within his plan to descend on those particulars: but wherefore then does he profess to write a review of our political situation? Is the time and attention of his readers, who expect information on points of which, from their necessary occupations and habits of life, the multitude can have small knowledge, to be taken up by
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barren speculations on the characters of men, of whose actions they are as well informed as himself? But even this task, paltry and unimportant as it is, of detailing the several virtues that adorn, and the vices that disgrace, the individual and the statesman, and parcelling them out to the various personages of this time, would be more excusable, if it were done with some tolerable degree of candour and judgment, and some greater shew of decency. To say nothing of others; what more audacious insult to the sense of a wise people can well be devised, than to hold up as an object of praise and distinction a man, into whose administration a public and severe scrutiny has been deemed proper? Should it be asked by what authority. I have presumed to call this reviewer to account, I answer, that if any one had stepped forward, and given him the re-
proof

proof he deserved, I had not ventured to send forth these remarks to the public, but had rested contented, in a reflection that the dagger had been drawn from the wound, and the base assassin received his merited punishment. As no one took up the pen, I held it my duty, as an Englishman, as a lover of honest men, and a friend to liberty, to appear a volunteer in a cause, which, if I can serve, I am much overpaid for the trouble this my first attempt in public has given me.

So much for the motives which induced me to publish these remarks; motives which, I trust, will not be put in comparison with those which influenced the short reviewer. If hunger drove the Author to the desperate deed, I pity, at the same time I despise, the man who would not rather work for bread

bread than be the flatterer of fools and villains, and the detractor of the wise and virtuous: but, if malevolence alone suggested the foul attempt, I would not have the blackness of heart, that could dictate such abuse, for more wealth than it is in the power of his patrons to give from the purse of a people overloaded with taxes, from the spoils of extirpated tribes, of injured chiefs, and desolated provinces.

I will not criticise on his language, (though it might be difficult to reconcile to sense and grammar the last sentence of his first page;) I hasten to greater things—even the chief magistrate of these realms. The Author is, no doubt, justified in the commendations which he bestows on the king as a tender and affectionate husband. Will not every one, who is but moderately ignorant

rant of past transactions, recognize in him the character of a fond and indulgent father? Even amidst all the evils which this nation has so abundantly suffered, we may contemplate with unfeigned pleasure the life of our sovereign.

A fond husband, a kind father; as a king, brave, generous, merciful; a patron of the fine arts; frugal in the management of his revenue; affable even to the meanest; the friend of mankind; eloquent; of ability to judge, and firmness to execute; graceful and manly in his deportment, displaying in every gesture the politeness of the man, heightened by the dignity of majesty.

Yet let it be allowed to an Englishman that he may heave a sigh of regret when thoughts rush upon his mind of the calamities which have befallen this
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nation for these six-and-twenty years past. The immense debt under which we groan; the daily bankruptcies of our merchants; the necessities of life taxed like luxuries; not only afford a gloomy horizon, but present a sad prospect of black despair for the future. Can we forbear to execrate the memory of the minister who granted a peace to our enemies, which gave them the means of recovering their defects, till, now revived and recruited, they threaten like a black cloud to burst with ruin on our heads? Will not the latest posterity lament the fatal policy which embroiled us with America, which consumed our treasure, which doomed to destruction our best and dearest blood? Long may we mourn the administration of those men, who in these few last years have reduced our affairs from the meridian of prosperity to the gloom of adverse for-

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tune,

tune, till fallen, from bad to worse, at last we seem overwhelmed with despair and impenetrable distress. From this sad scene let us turn to the rising hopes of the nation, the delight of his country's friends, the terror of it's enemies—the prince—who, defying temptation, has relinquished nearly half of his income for payment of his creditors. In this degenerate age we may boast one exalted character who dares be just—who can sacrifice emolument to principle, and live retired, when grandeur cannot be attained but by means dishonourable. If such a prince were sometimes irregular; if his conduct were not altogether faultless; yet should we not drop a tear on his failings, and wipe them out for ever? And what will the breath of calumny urge? Will this hireling assert that to him is known the nature of a connection, of which malice
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has spoken with such inconsistency as confutes itself? What mean then those obscure hints? Base wretch! where he cannot openly attack he would stab in the dark—equally infamous for his cowardice, and contemptible for his impotency!

Hence let us turn our eyes on the youth of five-and-twenty, holding the reins of a great empire at a period big with more important consequences than any it had ever seen. If it were told to a stranger of these later transactions, that such an one had been at the helm of the state for above three years, he would expect to find a prodigy of talents and of erudition, in whom an incomparable genius, improved by assiduous labour, supplied such unexampled abilities as baffled competition: otherwise he would say, “Wherefore have you rejected men of

tried understanding and knowledge, to whom the functions of government were known; to whom, by frequent practice, business was become habitual?" Suppose the stranger to be answered, "We indeed expected a prodigy in this youth, wherefore we knew not; we hailed him our favourite; for him we rejected our old counsellors; on him we rested our hopes of salvation to our country: three years have passed, and our miseries have increased upon us."

What then must the stranger think of us? Would he not believe that God had given us up unto foolishness, as being already devoted to destruction? Yet is not this the true state of our country? Is not the time at length arrived when ministerial promises had flattered us that a reduction of a million of our immense debt would have taken place, and a pleasing prospect would be opened
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of a period which might relieve us from the heavy burthens under which we have so long been oppressed? How great then must be the disappointment of all ranks, who wish well to their country, when they are told that, instead of a surplus, is found a deficiency; and, instead of an alleviation of their miseries, they must expect fresh taxes. No doubt the ministry will excuse themselves, by saying, if the customs and excise fall short of former years, they are not blameable; for that such failures are not to be imputed to those who direct affairs, but to contingencies, which it is impossible to foresee; and against which, consequently, no provision can be made. Have then the same men, who arrogated to themselves so great praise for their pretended surplus, so much meanness as to deny themselves to be culpable for a deficiency in the revenue? Would they

they build their fame on the success of a measure, yet refuse to be answerable for its failure? If they could so boldly affirm that the great increase of the customs was owing to the high opinion which foreigners entertained of them, must not the decrease be ascribed to a conviction of their impotence and inability? And shall our ears still be stunned with the praises of Mr. Pitt? Shall his wonderful talents and incorruptible integrity be yet so loudly vaunted? Must we be told that he is an able calculator who computes the average of a nation's income from eighteen months; and, being miserably mistaken, tells us he is not accountable for deficiencies? I will ask Mr. Pitt's warmest partizan, in what single instance he has displayed the talents and information requisite for the minister of a great empire?

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I do not deny him any praise which may be deserved by copiousness of language, and great powers of utterance; declamation however supplies the place of argument; and, when we expect a clear illustration of the subject, we hear but words devoid of meaning, and fine phrases without connection. Should we review his life for the few years since he first went to Cambridge, where is that to be found which can entitle him to the thousandth part of the praises which have been so lavishly bestowed upon him? At that place he is said to have read through the classic authors, at the same time giving considerable attention to mathematical studies: yet, on strict inquiry, we know not that he left behind him any proofs of attainments, the least superior to those of ordinary men.

From

From college he appears in the House of Commons, supported by the great name of his father; and takes an early opportunity to declare that he will not accept an inferior post. It is unnecessary to relate by what concurrence of unfortunate circumstances a way was paved for the dismissal of the old whig families from the management of affairs, and the admission of a motley group of Scotchmen, tories, and renegade whigs, headed by a beardless boy. Is there aught yet that can deserve praise? Are we to admire the first display of his haughty self confidence, or, after abuse of the coalition, his junction with the very meanest of Lord North's supporters; the men by whose principles and whose dark intrigues this kingdom has so long suffered? But is it not wonderful that, opposed by so great abilities, he should still keep his ground? In any other time it would be

wonderful, but the things we have known in our times leave no room for admiration. First, as a specimen of it's author's skill in the science of politics, appeared the mighty India Bill; by which touchstone he was to be tried, by which he was to stand or fall: after repeated changes it was passed, and in the next session was again completely changed; many parts being introduced of the very bill which had cost Mr. Fox and his friends their places. Next came his Irish Propositions. When the principles of that famed scheme were fundamentally altered, though it had been repeatedly declared that the original propositions must either be passed or rejected in toto, they were returned to Ireland, and there spurned at with merited contempt. Of his oppressive Commutation Act we still feel the dismal effects in darkened and unwholesome habitations; while the revenue loses by the failure of

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the old window-tax. Why should I speak of the shop-tax, (which, having asserted that it was advantageous to trade, he yet took off from the smaller shops ; thereby completely contradicting himself; for if it were advantageous, wherefore were the inferior traders debarred of the benefit) of the tribunal that admits not a trial by jury, and of the country sacrificed to the India Company? Are these the measures on which he builds his reputation? Does he from them expect to be handed down to posterity as a wise and virtuous minister? Or does he seek for fame from the Commercial Treaty? Of that I have nothing to say, nor of its prototype the Treaty of Utrecht : the houses of parliament will investigate it throughout, will sift and determine its merits or defects. Let me now in turn delineate the character of our present prime minister, as it may
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be supposed to be given by some future historian.

Denied by nature every grace of external appearance, and troubled with no warmth of passions, which so often distract the greatest minds from serious occupations, Mr. Pitt came forwards in the career of politics at an early period of life. When the peace had excited so general a dislike of Lord Shelburne that he could not stand before it, and the coalition ministry had succeeded his administration, the opposition was formed of men inconsiderable for talents, for birth, or fortune, the scum of divers administrations; and even to these, weak as they were, a leader was wanting. In this emergency they cast their eyes on Mr. Pitt. His name, long revered by the people of England, insured a great degree of respect, and a high opinion was entertained of the abilities and of the

knowledge of the favourite son of the great Chatham. With him for their leader, a dispirited faction once again raised their heads; and certain extraordinary events gave them the opportunity of gratifying their utmost wishes. The coalition between Mr. Fox and Lord North, though it united the greatest talents in the nation, was yet regarded with a suspicious eye by those who could not conceive that such a junction could be formed without a dereliction of every avowed principle. Taking advantage of this circumstance, and the popular outcry against a bill calculated to restrain abuses in India, which the delinquents, who feared the loss of their infamous means of gain, most assiduously fought to raise, this faction, without abilities, and without character, but supported by royal favour, contrived to supersede the Whigs. Unsupported by others, and a stranger to politics himself, Mr. Pitt ven-

tured on the arduous post of Prime Minister to the King of Great Britain. His cold and haughty demeanour was of no disservice to him among men, in whom attachments to the profits of place banished every consideration of personal attachment. By specious promises, which were made but to be broken, he awhile deceived the people of England, who fondly believed that they could discern the vigour, the firmness, and the knowledge, which the father gained from long experience, already matured in the son. His obstinacy in refusing answers to the interrogatories of his opponents passed for the deliberative wisdom which characterizes the veteran politician. The facility with which he was sometimes induced to change his measures passed for the modest candour of youth; the tenaciousness with which he had adhered to them at other seasons was esteemed a proof of the firmness of riper years. But
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when time had broken the veil of delusion, when it was found that promises were not repaid but with promises, that every principle was sacrificed to a desire of power, the confidence of the people was changed to detestation, and they late repented their desertion of their old and true friends. Instead of remedies for defects in the constitution, they beheld their dearest right, the trial by jury, undermined by new tribunals and summary convictions: instead of a boasted œconomy, they beheld a profusion of new appointments for needy dependants and profligate renegadoes; every thing given up to the crown, while the youthful hope of the nation was neglected and insulted. This dismal posture of affairs made the people look with an anxious eye to the day when those men, who had ever espoused the cause of liberty against the increasing influence

influence of the crown, might again resume the management of affairs.

The ruling passion of this young man was ambition, before which every prudential consideration vanished. His immoderate pride prompted him to undertake the highest office of the state, when qualified only for the lowest. If he had been more moderate in his desires, he might have filled with approbation a place in a ministry, composed of men whose principles he had affected to embrace; and, when his talents had been matured by experience, he might without envy have succeeded the great character, whom he supplanted to the dishonour and detriment of his country.

Thus have I attempted a character of the minister; and whether it be consonant with truth, I leave the world to judge.
For

For myself I can say, that I have advanced nothing that did not seem warranted by fact. Of the remainder of the administration, much need not be said: the virtues of Dundas and Jenkinson and Thurlow, the abilities of Sydney and Carmarthen, demand not the assistance of my pen for their full display.

Let us now proceed to a review of the leading characters of that “band of motley materials,” as it has pleased the reviewer to call the opposition: here, with the same pretence to impartiality which he every where professes, he discloses the cloven hoof; and in the very language of a ministerial hireling treats with indecent contumely the noble duke who lately presided at the nation’s councils. The same arrogance which claims to Mr. Pitt the praise of every virtue which adorns the man, and all the talents which dignify

nify the statesman, tells us that the Duke of Portland is but a pageant, and a tool to other men. Are then the testimonies of the ability of the Duke of Portland less strong than of Mr. Pitt? If this reviewer were asked what proof he could produce of deficiency in the one, or superior ability in the other, frontless as he is, he would sit down silent. It would be indeed pleasing to dwell on the characters of this excellent personage, and his worthy coadjutor Lord John Cavendish, if it were not more immediately my purpose to answer the short review.

In a review of Mr. Fox's character, I trust any, who may think these remarks worthy a perusal, will not be offended if I turn back to the first outset of his political career. It cannot excite much wonder that, being brought into parliament at the early age of twenty, he had

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not yet formed his opinion on the great questions then in agitation: if he for some years acted with the administration of that time, we should be cautious how we blame him; as the influence of a father is well known to determine, for the most part, the side which a youthful politician espouses. Upon a quarrel with Lord North, he went over to opposition: and then, attending to the situation of this country, he beheld the ruinous tendency of the measures which that ministry pursued; he espoused the cause of the people with the vigour for which he has been long eminent; and laboured for several years to effect the desired reformati-
 ons in the different departments of the state, and to put an end to the unnatural contest with America, which lost to us that country, and brought upon us a load of debt, under which we are sinking. Such was his zeal for liberty, and for the
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depression of the influence of the crown, that he was distinguished by the appellation of "the man of the people;" a title far more honourable than any kings can bestow, being given by a free people as an acknowledgment for the most essential services.

A long time he stemmed the torrent of corruption; and at last he gained a glorious victory over the ministerial phalanx. Having succeeded to a high post in administration, still we find him the friend of the people; still conferring with them on the measures necessary for the public welfare, and labouring for the rights of mankind: to Ireland he obtained a participation of those privileges which he had endeavoured to procure for America, and bound to us that kingdom by the ties of friendship and gratitude.

The restless ambition of Lord Landsdowne had no sooner secured itself in the vacant post of the late much lamented Lord Rockingham, than Mr. Fox, finding measures about to be pursued which met not with his approbation, resigned his place, that he might not give a sanction to plans which he deemed pernicious to his country.

The general disapprobation of the peace patched up by Lord Landsdowne soon rendered the resignation of that nobleman indispensable; at which period Mr. Fox formed a junction with Lord North, for transacting of the public business. On this a general outcry was raised through the arts of designing men, who asserted it to be a most flagrant instance of political depravity in him, to join a man, whose measures he had for
years

years opposed as injurious to the interests of his country. The word coalition then conveyed every idea of unexampled flagitiousness: but if it were now asked whence was all that outcry, it would be difficult to assign a reason. Can Mr. Fox be justly accused of desertion of those principles, the profession of which first gained him the favour of the people? Hath he sacrificed liberty at the shrine of royalty, or did he not rather ever avow himself, while in place, the servant of his country, not the tool of regal influence? This maintenance of his independence, this zeal for the people, rendered him odious to the throne when in opposition, and an obnoxious servant when secretary of state. And have we been so blind as to reject our best friend and cherish our foes, till, grown great and insolent, they despise those who made them what they are? Did not Mr. Fox in office restrain

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that influence, against which his attacks were directed from the seat of opposition? The man in my opinion is consistent, who, upon mature reflection, having determined the principles which shall regulate his actions, deviates not from them, either through hope of interest on the one hand, or fear of misfortune on the other. Will not then the slightest thought present to us the man, who, having professed in the outset of his life to support the cause of freedom and the people against prerogative and corruption, in defiance of the concealed resentment of hypocrisy, and the more open attacks of malevolence, in opposition to the clamours of mistaken zeal and the more enticing whispers of private interest, steadily pursues that path which early consideration had chosen? Why should we speak of Mr. Fox's oratorical powers? All who have heard him, impetuous yet clear, copious yet not
redundant,

redundant, know well his ability either to detect the errors of others, or stamp conviction on the mind of the integrity of his own measures: ever close and pointed in his arguments, he seeks not meretricious ornaments, but charms with the native beauty of reason and manliness of sentiment, which his nervous language is admirably adapted to convey.

Such is this great man; the friend of the people, and beloved by them; firm amidst a falling age; undaunted by menaces, and unseduced by corruption.

And has providence bountifully bestowed on the nation such a man for it's support, and have we neglected the boon! Must he for ever be a prophet to warn us of our danger, yet not be suffered to avert that ruin he foresees? Oh! may some happier time call forth such talents for the public

lic service; may England yet hail a Fox
her friend and her guide!

While the greatest talents, improved by
the closest application; while zeal for vir-
tue, and a steady adherence to our coun-
try's good, shall be deemed praiseworthy
among men; so long shall the accomplish-
ed Burke receive the tribute of deserved
applause.

His is the praise to hear the cries of
the wretched, to stand forth the cham-
pion of injured innocence, to call to ac-
count the corrupt governor from amidst
a tribe of powerful adherents, and bre-
thren in iniquity. Above temptation
himself, he voluntarily assumes the task
of bringing to justice delinquents, regard-
less of danger to his person or his fortune,
when the groans of the oppressed call for
vengeance on their insulting persecutor.

Amidst

Amidst the ranks of opposition how many appear to grace the fair list of their country's friends, whose names convey every idea of the highest abilities joined to the strictest integrity.

Will the most enthusiastic admirer of the present ministry desire to institute a comparison between them and their opponents? Are the names of Portland, Cavendish, Montague, Fox, Burke, and Sheridan, to be contrasted with Pitt, Thurlow, Dundas, Jenkinson, Sydney, and Carmarthen? Yet when our ears are wearied with the sound of consistency, coalition, and such stale topics, the question must at last come to this, "Who are best qualified to discharge the business of the nation?" If the adherents of Mr. Pitt cannot deny every department of government to have been filled with the greatest capacities under the coalition

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ministry ; if they confess the present administration to be less able than their predecessors, the dispute should here come to a termination :—but say the friends of Mr. Pitt, “ The want of principle of the opposite party is so apparent, that no confidence can be had in them.” To support this they insinuate a design of Mr. Fox to seize, by one daring effort, all things into his own power by his India Bill : as if Mr. Pitt had not ingrafted into his own scheme the leading points of that Bill. If Mr. Fox would have introduced a power unknown to the constitution, did Mr. Pitt do otherwise ? And was not Mr. Fox’s plan more eligible, inasmuch as he would have given the government of India to parliament ?—and Mr. Pitt has added that immense patronage to the already overgrown influence of the crown.

But

But enough of this subject; let us now turn to others; to Lord Rodney, and Mr. Hastings. With his wonted effrontery, the ministerial tool has dared to call in question the justice of a nation who deems it necessary to order strict inquiry into the conduct of its governors and commanders abroad. Are then no complaints to be received against the wealthy and powerful? Does this hireling assert that men in great power are above all control; and that, shielded by the sanction of authority, they may give a loose to avarice, injustice, and cruelty? I do not here call in question the conduct of Lord Rodney; I do not even believe that the confiscation of effects at St. Eustatius was dictated by other than the best motives: I hope, and trust, that inquiry will but add to the lustre of his actions. Yet it were strange injustice, surely, to refuse a hearing to sufferers, because the

man whom they accuse has fought his country's battles with success ! Had any man increased the power and wealth of his country more than the late Lord Clive ; yet had any one been more infamous for treachery and peculation ? Need I mention the name of Omichund, that it may be remembered how the victor at Plassey could stoop to the basest actions ? And wherefore then must Lord Rodney be pronounced immaculate, because he vanquished the foes of Britain ? Let the claims of those who demand justice be heard : if they be just, let them recover their own : if, on the contrary, they be found the clamours of disappointed treason, Lord Rodney's fame will be nothing diminished ; and what he suffers in fortune let his country repay tenfold.

Our

Our next business is to consider the strictures which the reviewer hath, with great asperity, bestowed on the impeachment of Mr. Hastings. Here, indeed, we find him at last reposed, after a toilsome journey through the characters of kings and princes, of ministers and commanders ; here he displays his talents for panegyric ; here appear, choicely culled expressions, and quotations carefully sought, that he may array in proud trappings the great Warren Hastings. If a man of common decency had undertaken a sketch of this very dubious character, he would have spoken with diffidence where the opinions of the most intelligent men were decidedly contrary ; and not have extolled, with fulsome encomiums, a man who has been publicly impeached, and received censure from the House of Commons. His zeal in the cause of Mr. Hastings so transcends what
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he has shewn for others, that he may be fairly considered the hero of the piece.

What he has advanced, however, in praise of that character is so general and indiscriminate, as of itself to merit no particular attention; but, as the conduct of Mr. Hastings still continues an object of general notice, a few words on the subject may not be improper.

The partizans of Mr. Hastings ground his pretensions to praise on the salvation of our Eastern possessions from the jaws of ruin; and here is the fallacy. If it could be demonstratively proved that to the influence of his councils it is owing we now possess any domains in India; if the conclusion of the Mahratta war, if the preservation of the Carnatic, were truly the effect of his measures, yet have his advocates gained nothing.

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Let them then shew that the formidable confederacy of the country powers did not originate from a general detestation of his perfidy and duplicity, and a well-grounded apprehension that he was resolved, in violation of every tie, divine and human, to sow dissensions amongst them that he might compass his schemes of conquest with greater facility.

Did not he countenance the presidency at Bombay, in their interference with the disputes of the Mahrattas of Poonah, though an act of parliament had forbidden such proceedings; the same act having given to him the power of controlling their operations? When a peace was settled, which insured to the company many great advantages, Mr. Hastings not only suffered an infraction of the treaty by the Council of Bombay; but, while he gave a sanction to their connexion with Ragoba, was yet

carrying on intrigues with the Rajah of Berar, tempting that prince with an offer of the throne of Poonah. The support given to Ragoba, justly abhorred throughout the Decan, as an incorrigible villain, tended, together with the misconduct of the Council of Madras, to exasperate against us Nizam Ally. Small merit therefore can be ascribed to Mr. Hastings for his conduct in extricating the English affairs from the dangers threatening them, when it is taken into account that to him alone can be attributed the junction of those powers who confederated for our destruction. Conduct less atrocious than his would not have united in a league powers so much at variance, so differing in religion and political interests, as the Poonah ministry, the Rajah of Berar, the Nizam, and Hyder Ally. And what did the boasted Mahratta peace gain for us? It put us in a worse situation than

than we were before, by the loss of a valuable territory. All therefore, which we have benefited by Mr. Hastings in India, is found to be a character of perfidy and treachery, of desertion of our allies, of oppression over our friends, disgrace to our arms, and an ignominious peace. We have shewn to the natives that union among themselves is alone wanting for our utter extirpation from the countries we have seized, and that more safety may be obtained from our enmity than our friendship. In short, the blessed effects of Mr. Hastings's administration are poverty and desolation triumphant in our own provinces, and increased strength in those of our enemies. The country powers have learned from the examples we have shewn them ; they see the Nabob of Oude reduced to poverty and distress, the slave of English councils, and the miserable victim of English extortion;

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they see the Rajah of Benares driven from his palace and dominions with insult and outrage, because he would not utterly ruin himself in our support; they now shun connection with us, as a nation who, by the basest means, compass the worst of ends, with whom extortion and cruelty are so common as to escape reproach.

Has not Mr. Hastings himself confessed the receipt of money, which by act of parliament he was forbidden to accept? And is it then so injurious to the character of this man, who avows his corruption, to bring him forward to the national tribunal, that he may answer charges of crimes of the deepest dye? Was it thought hard that Lord Clive, who, no doubt, in many instances behaved with true magnanimity, (happy had he always done so!) should be made accountable to justice for his conduct?

Let any one consider, with a moderate degree of discernment, the desolated state of the provinces under our authority in India, and let them say if it be not advisable to ascertain whether these misfortunes have befallen that devoted country through corrupt mismanagement and unfeeling sway; from the unavoidable calamities of unprovoked war; or from some internal cause, which may baffle the sagacity of the best and most able governor. The administration of Mr. Hastings set aside, it is well known with what rapacity of extortion, and what diabolical cruelty of oppression, our countrymen have injured the inoffensive and unfortunate race of Hindoos! Does not then justice cry aloud for inquiry? Does she not demand vengeance of the guilty oppressors? The zealous constancy of a Burke has not been discouraged, though thwarted; and we fear not

that he will pursue, with the same unremitting assiduity, the detection of criminals, that the stain may be wiped from our national character, and that Providence may once more extend his protection to us.

Here then we shall finish our remarks on the short review—happy if we have rescued, from unmerited reproach, one worthy character; if we have drawn away the mask from hypocrisy; or held a mirror to the unworthy. That many will reprehend this performance, as a party pamphlet, we doubt not; nor do we attempt to palm on our readers the stale pretence of impartiality, nor hesitate to declare ourselves well-wishers to the opposers of the measures at present pursued. Is it possible that any one can behold with indifference the parties that now divide the political world; since on their conduct depend our dearest rights, our possessions, our lives, our liberties?

Convinced

Convinced that ruin has ever impended from Tory administrations, and that the principles of the Whigs are those that favour the rights of mankind, we, with anxious solicitude, expect that day when this country may be governed by Whig Ministers and Whig Councils.

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